

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OES-03 NASA-01 OMB-01 EB-07 AID-05 /081 W

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R 070640Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7508

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TANANARIVE 1386

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MA UK US

SUBJECT: CLOSURE OF BRITISH EMBASSY IN MADAGASCAR

REF: TANANARIVE 1223

1. MADAGASCAR LEADING DAILY, MADAGASCAR MATIN, ON AUGUST 4 DISCLOSED CLOSING OF BRITISH EMBASSY "FOR ECONOMIC REASONS." ITEM ALSO INDICATED THAT BRITISH CHARGE SAID "THE CLOSING DOES NOT REPRESENT RUPTURE UK-GOMR RELATIONS NOR DOES IT HAVE ANY RELATION TO CLOSING OF NASA TRACKING STATION." OFFICIAL GOMR PRESS BULLETIN MAD PRESSE CARRIED SAME ITEM ON AUGUST 2 BUT ENTIRE BULLETIN WAS LATER WITHDRAWN FROM CIRCULATION. EMBASSY APPARENTLY RECEIVED FEW COPIES THROUGH OVERSIGHT.

2. REVIEW OF AUGUST 2 MAD PRESSE ISSUE YIELDED NO ARTICLE WHICH GOMR CENSORS MIGHT HAVE QUESTIONED OTHER THAN THAT ON BRITISH EMBASSY CLOSURE. BRITISH CHARGE WAS SURPRISED BY PUBLICITY HIS "OFF-THE-RECORD" REMARKS TO MAD PRESSE RECEIVED SINCE HE HAD TOLD REPORTER THAT GOMR SHOULD MAKE ANY ANNOUNCEMENT. BRITISH CHARGE TOLD AMERICAN CHARGE THAT MALAGASY EMBASSY IN LONDON WILL ALSO CLOSE, BUT COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATIVE MAY REMAIN.

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3. EMBASSY COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES BRITISH CHARGE'S COMMENTS WILL DO AS MUCH TO FUEL MALAGASY SUSPICIONS ON "REAL REASONS" BEHIND BRITISH EMBASSY CLOSURE AS IT WILL TO DISSIPATE THEM. GOMR'S APPARENT ABORTIVE ATTEMPT TO KEEP

LID ON NEWS OF BRITISH EMBASSY CLOSURE, REINFORCES EMBASSY
VIEW THAT GOMR IS CONCERNED WITH PUBLIC MISINTERPRETATION
OF BRITISH ACTION AND AFFECT ON GOMR "OMNIDIRECTIONAL"
FOREIGN POLICY.
ELFERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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